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RECENT STATISTICS ON WOMEN WORKERS IN THE USSR

[Numbers in parentheses refer to appended sources.]

There are over 900,000 women specialists in the USSR who have completed a higher education, i.e., about three times as many as in 1940. More than 1,200,000 women are being trained in higher and specialized secondary educational institutions.

Women play an important part in Soviet book trade. Among 33,000 workers of book-trading organizations and enterprises of Glavpoligrafizdat (Main Administration of the Printing Industry, Publishing, and Book Trade). 24,000 or 73.7 percent are women. Many of them are heads of bookstores, libraries, etc. There are 21 women directors of oblast book-trading organizations.

There are three book-trade tekhnikums under Glavpoligrafizdat, in Moscow, Leningrad, and Novosibirsk. Among the students of these tekhnikums, 95 percent are girls.

Among the workers of Mosknigotorg (Moscow Book-Trading Organization), 77 percent are women. Ten stores of Mosknigotorg employ only women.(1)

As of 8 March 1953, more than 2,500,000 women were employed in scientific, educational, and cultural institutions of the USSR. There are over a million women teachers at present, and an equal number of women are working in hospitals, polyclinics, dispensaries, sanatoria, and rest homes.(2)

In the Kirgiz SSR, more than 42 percent of the total number of workers in industry, transportation, and related enterprises are women. In agriculture, women comprise 56.5 percent of the total labor force. In secondary and 7-year schools of the republic, 8,500 women are being educated, of which more than 1,500 are studying medicine. In addition, more than 8,000 young women are receiving an education in secondary and higher educational institutions.

- 1 -

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In industrial enterprises in the city of Frunze, more than 300 women's brigades are striving for a higher quality of work; of this number 70 have attained the rank of high quality brigades. In the Proletarskiy region of the city there are more than 4,500 women classed as Stakhanovites and shock workers.

An example of the working conditions in a Frunze factory is given by one of the women workers: "Our collective is successfully struggling to exceed the state plans. In the factory, six work groups received high-quality ratings. About 400 women and girls have raised their level of work by attending political study circles. Many young women workers are taking tekhnikum courses.-- Many of the young women workers and I entered the factory as seamstresses, but we are now working as mechanics. We have a medical dispensary, and a first aid room. Last summer many of our children attended pioneer camps. However, there are many inefficiencies which hinder the work of women in the factory. The supply of raw materials and spare parts for the machines is not sufficient. Furthermore, adequate facilities have not been furnished for mothers who are nursing their babies. Nurseries and kindergartens cannot accommodate all the children."(3)

In the Ural region of the Kazakh SSR, about 500 women are employed on tractors, combines, and automatic sowing machines; many are proving to be expert technicians. Well over half of a tractor brigade in the Budennovskiy MTS consists of women. In 1952, two women tractor drivers of this brigade each cultivated 1,170 hectares of tillable land, exceeding the norm of 800 hectares. Another harvested 780 hectares, surpassing the seasonal norm.

Machine-operator jobs are continually being filled by women. In the fall of 1952, about 250 women from kolkhozes attended schools for machine operators. In courses given by MTS, 390 women are mastering the operation of agricultural machinery. In the Kamenskiy Rayon, 35 women are taking these MTS courses.(4)

In the Latvian SSR, women are being employed extensively as agricultural workers, especially in connection with the spring harvest. In the Daugavpilskiy Rayon, about 50 women kolkhoz workers are working as ploughwomen in agricultural artels; more than 200 women tractor drivers are employed in the same fields. About 50,000 women kolkhoz workers are actively participating in harvesting in agricultural artels of the Rizhskaia Oblast.

About 4,000 women are engaged in supervisory work in cities and villages of the Liepayskaya Oblast. Of these, 450 are working as directors of animal husbandry farms, 50 as brigade leaders of field cultivation brigades, and more than 60 as chairmen and deputy chairmen of kolkhozes; 110 women are employed as mechanics and as combine and tractor operators.

At the present time, only 131 agricultural artels have kindergartens for children of women employed in harvest work. However, kindergartens are being set up in some 622 kolkhozes.

Criticism has been directed against agricultural organizations of the republic for failing to raise the general educational and technical level of women kolkhoz workers. In the Liepayskaya Oblast, only 132 women are training to become leading kolkhoz workers; only 98 women are taking machine-operator courses.(5)

- 2 -

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SOURCES

1. Moscow, Sovetskaya Knizhnaya Torgovlya, No 3, 1953
2. Moscow, Pravda, 8 Mar 53
3. Frunze, Sovetskaya Kirgiziya, 28 Feb 53
4. Alma-Ata, Kazakhstanskaya Pravda, 11 Feb 53
5. Riga, Sovetskaya Latvija, 19 Apr 53

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- 3 -

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